

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of the receipt by the PTO of the Preliminary Amendment, the Prior Art Statement and Applicants' Foreign Priority Papers.

Restriction has been required under 35 U.S.C. §121 and 372 between the following:

Group I, claims 7 to 10; and

Group II, claims 11 to 13.

In accordance with the requirement, applicants elect, with traverse, Group I (Claims 7 to 10). It is urged that the requirement is unnecessary and burdensome on the applicants. Applicants believe that the search that would be conducted by the Examiner in examining both groups would not be burdensome and would reduce the costs of patenting to the applicants.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement is urged.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the present claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

AUTHORIZATION

If the Examiner believes that issues may be resolved by telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned at (212) 801-2146. The undersigned may also be contacted by e-mail at ecr@gtlaw.com.

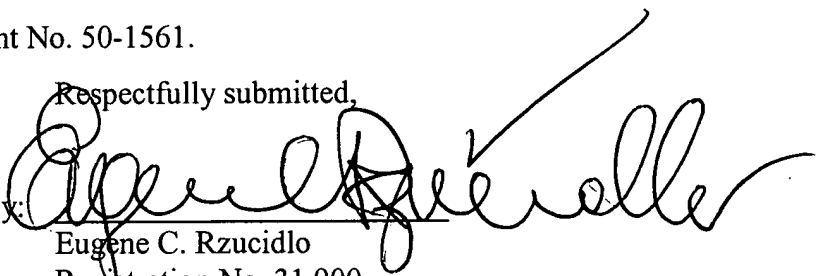
No additional fee is believed to be necessary. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1561.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-1561.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 6, 2004

By:


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